U. S. War Department

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0019

CONFIDENTIAL

ALLIED TRANSLATOR AND INTERPRETER SECTION
SOUTH WEST PACIFIC AREA

RESEARCH REPORT

No. 65 (Suppl No. 1) 29 Mar 45

a. Torture of Prisoners of War

(4) Diary, owner probably a warrant officer in the naval air force. The extracts quoted show brutality in interrogation and reflect the attitude of Japanese to Allied prisoners of war.

(a) 14 December 1943. - "Three members of the crew of a B-24 that we shot down yesterday were discovered adrift on the sea. They were picked up as prisoners. One was an exceptionally tall fellow, and another was a clumsy fellow just like a beer barrel. They had been in a lifeboat a day and a night. The third was rather nondescript in appearance and had a big bandage on his leg. He was probably shot by a machine gun. White men are certain weaklings. These prisoners were placed in hastily built solitary cells. At night the prisoners were questioned by our defense force interrogators. I thought our sergeant's interpretation was rather good. He tried to scare them with a Japanese sword, but the young officer and the noncommissioned officers would not reply as asked. Thereupon blows were struck on the officer's chin, and that damned officer finally let out a scream. The beer-barreled radio technician answered quite freely, but I laughed when he said that the cruising range of the B-24 was 10,000 miles. We have lots to learn about their weapons and radio instruments. They don't seem to have many furloughs. The going doesn't seem to be very easy for the enemy either. When I think that these guys took the lives of some of our men it rouses my anger; but when I see their pitiful plight and I think of myself in their position, I cannot remain angry long. Whatever the case may be I will not be taken prisoner. There is nothing more disloyal than that - I'd rather be eaten by a shark!

(b) 15 December 1943. - "There was another interrogation. It was very hot and it seemed as though we could not get very much information from them, so we dispensed with the idea. We received an order yesterday to evacuate to KWAJALEIN.

"At 0800 hours, we had an air raid after a long absence. A first lieutenant who parachuted down was caught on a coconut tree. In spite of this, he furiously resisted capture.

"The tall and lanky prisoner had a piece of newspaper in his nose to stop the bleeding which was caused by the beating he received when he resisted capture. This is the beginning of our revenge. According to this prisoner, there are 20,000 American soldiers, 30 planes and one carrier loaded with 1500 planes at TARAWA".

(JICPOA Translation Item 6437, pages 3-4)

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Original file in 5106

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